WIVENHOE URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SURVEYOR and PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1972

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Lexden Grange,
Lexden Road,
Colchester.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for year 1972.

I have to thank the members of the Council and the Council's staff for their assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant

S. MACMILLAN

Medical Officer of Health

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health. SYLVIA MACMILLAN, M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P., M.B.B.S.,D.P.H.
Appointed 1st April, 1966 (Time shared with two neighbouring Authorities and the County Council)

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor. J.KELLY, M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor. M.C.WALKER, A.R.S.H., M.R.P.A.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee - Chairman: Councillor E.E.J.Westlake

Highways and Water Committee - Chairman: Councillor W.Sparrow

Housing Committee - Chairman: Councillor E.J.Hatch

Finance and General Purposes Committee - Chairman: Councillor W.J.Cracknell

Chairman of the Council - Councillor T.M.Endean

Clerk to the Council - W.Trickett, A.C.C.S.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	1,493
Register General's estimate of mid-year resident population 1972	5,560
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1972) according to Rate Book	1,660
Rateable Value	184,497
Sum represented by a penny rate	1,802

The district is situated on the east bank of the River Colne where its waters are tidal. It is about four miles down the river from Colchester and it is also on the main line from London to Clacton-on-Sea. Local industries are shipbuilding, general engineering, agriculture and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre. More than half the working population find their employment outside the district.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		M	F	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS	(All	35	50	85
	(Legitimate	32	46	78
	(Illegitimate	3	4	7

Illegitimate live births as % of total live births 8%

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.3
Comparability factor	0.76
Corrected rate	11.6
England and Wales	14.8

	M	F	TOTAL
STILL BIRTHS	0	0	0

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) babies	0
England and Wales	12
Total births (live and still births)	77

		M	F	TOTAL
INFANTS DEATHS	(All	0	1	1
	(Legitimate	0	1	1
	(Illegitimate	0	0	0
Under 1 year		0	1	1
Under 4 weeks		0	1	1
In first week		0	0	0

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ..	12
Infant mortality England and Wales	17
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births plus deaths during first week per 1,000 total live and still-births) England and Wales 23	0
Maternal deaths	0
Maternal mortality rate	0

Total deaths M - 30 F - 18 TOTAL - 48

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ..	8.6
Comparability factor	1.27
Corrected death rate	10.9
England and Wales	12.1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948/51

No action under this Act was necessary

Deaths in various age groups (local statistics)

Under 4 weeks	1	35 - 44	0
4 weeks - 1 year	0	45 - 54	1
1 - 4 years	0	55 - 64	6
5 - 14 years	1	65 - 74	15
15- 24 years	1	75 years and over	23
25- 34 years	0		

Causes of Death	M	F	TOTAL
Malignant neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	0	1
Other malignant neoplasms	1	2	3
Diabetes Mellitus	0	1	1
Other diseases of Nervous System	1	0	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	13	3	16
Other formsof Heart Disease	0	2	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	3	7
Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	1	3
Pheumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	0	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	0	1	1
Other diseases of Digestive System	0	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Congenital Anomalies	0	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Total all causes	30	18	48

Observation on Vital Statistics

I am pleased to report another drop in the birth rate although the population has been increasing rapidly over the last 10 years. Its age structure is now considerably more youthful than that for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, when a bacteriological analysis is required, and to the County's Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, when a chemical or complete analysis is required.

Samples of food and ice cream etc. are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities

Non-emergency calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation, dial '999' or '100' and ask for ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Child Health
Pre-natal and post-natal clinics
Relaxation and Mothercraft
Home Nursing
Home Help
Mental Health

Innoculation against measles, diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polimyelitis, tuberculosis and german measles.
Provision of nursing equipment.
School health service

Cervical Cytology Clinic is held at Central Health Services Clinic, East Lodge, Court, High Street, Colchester, every Thursday at 9.30 a.m.: Tel:Col.79411

Relaxation Clinics and Mothercraft, Central Clinic, East Lodge Court, Colchester: Monday morning, Tuesday morning and afternoon, Thursday morning and afternoon, Friday morning and afternoon.

Child Health Clinics are held at the Wivenhoe Public Hall every Tuesday 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Home Help Organiser, Park Road, Colchester. Tel: Col. 79511.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

V.D.Clinic. Sessions are held at the Essex County Hospital on Tuesday, 5.0 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., and Fridays 10.0 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Family Planning Association. Clinics are held at the following:-
(1) Essex County Hospital, Mondays and Thursdays 6.30 to 8.30pm. Col.77341
(2) Monkwick Health Services Clinic, Tuesdays 6.0 to 9.0 pm.
I.U.D. Clinics, Wednesdays a.m. (by appointment), and 1st and 3rd Friday a.m. (by appointment). Tel: Col. 78571
(3) Tiptree Health Services Clinic, 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month, 6.0 to 9.0pm. Tel: Tiptree 6475.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1. Mains Water Supply. The Tendring Hundred Water Company continued as the statutory undertaking responsible for the supply of water throughout the Council's District. From the reports below, for which I am indebted to their Chief Engineer, Mr.John A.W.Rayner, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E. it will be readily seen a wholesome supply has been given and it has been in sufficient quantity.

The quantity of water supplied to Wivenhoe in the twelve months ended 31st December, 1972, amounted to 73.405 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.201 million gallons. The total quantity taken for domestic purposes during the year was 47.990 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.131 million gallons. The total amount taken through trade meters was 25.415 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.070 million gallons.

The total number of connections (domestic and trade) made in the year to the Company's mains in the Urban District amounted to 48. Approximately 1088 metres of new mains of 4" and 6" diameter have been laid in the Wivenhoe district during the year.

Dedham Pumping Station

Chemical results in parts per million

Colour	Nil	Turbidity	1
pH.	7.6	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	875	Free Carbon Dioxide	13.5
Chlorine present as Chloride	126	Total Solids	575
Hardness: Total	295	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Carbonate	255	Carbonate	255
Non-Carbonate	35	Nitrite Nitrogen less than	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Permonganate Value	0.20
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.26	Residual Chlorine	0.13
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.0		
Metals: Iron	0.22		
Copper,lead,manganese	absent		
Zinc	0.03		
Cadmium less than	0.01		

Bacteriological Results.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of Colonies developing on Agar	0 per ml.	1 per ml.	2 per ml.
	Present in	absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Bact. Coli (type 1)	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.

Remarks. These samples are practically clear and bright in appearance and have a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and are free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

All samples were analysed by the County's Public Health Laboratories.

2. Sewers and Sewage Disposal. The normal routine maintenance of the Pumping Station and Sewage Works was carried out during the year. All three pumps, however, required attention for minor faults. The storm water pump failed on one occasion due to a hole in its casing and the other two pumps, on another occasion, due to the starter mechanism.

The Settlement Tanks, Humus Tanks and Sludge Liquor Tank at the Sewage Works were cleaned out and the Sludge Drying Beds emptied.

Minor repairs were carried out by the direct labour staff to the culvert in Queens Road and the Town Ditch cleared of overgrowth and cleaned out.

Pollution of the 'wet' well at the Pumping Station by trade effluents was detected during the year. The effluents appeared to be diesel oil and coloured dye or paint which had been discharged into the sewerage system at the south end of the town. The provisions of the Public Health Act with regard to this practise was drawn to the attention of all industrial concerns within the drainage area and this had the desired effect.

Satisfactory progress was made on the Wivenhoe Sewer Scheme - Stage II this year with the completion of the Railway Crossing and main Civil Engineering Contracts. This enabled the sewage from the south end of the town to be pumped to Colchester, whilst, at the same time, improvements to the Pumping Station were still in progress, e.g. installation of new pumps, electrical installations and sealing of the walls. It is interesting to note, however, that this additional flow to Colchester has increased the existing flow by approximately 25%.

3. Public Cleansing The Refuse Tip has continued to give satisfactory facilities with further excavations for covering material, thus providing additional tipping area. The new J.C.B. machine has now been operating continuously on the tip for one year without any major breakdowns occurring and this has contributed largely to an overall general improvement in the tip control. Regular spraying of the tip face and surrounds with insecticide has also been carried out during the summer months, including week-ends as overtime. The tip has, as in previous years, been open to the public on the first Saturday morning of each month for the deposit of household refuse and there appears to have been a greater increase in its usuage during the past year.

Despite three major breakdowns in the refuse vehicle, causing a total loss of six days' collection, the service was maintained by the collectors working on six consecutive Saturdays as overtime. The causes of the breakdowns were (1) burst hydraulic pipe (2) badly worn clutch assembly (3) leaking water pump.

Paper baling was carried out during wet weather by the general manual workers.

4. Public Conveniences. All the public conveniences have been cleaned out and disinfected daily during the year.

The Car Park toilets, however, were the subject of extensive vandalism with 26 No. panes of glass being broken - 10 large and 16 small - during the months of July and August. These were replaced by direct labour using perspex instead of glass and this has certainly proved effective. During the latter part of the year, the Council decided to carry out improvements to these toilets and a specification was prepared for the repair and renovation of the fittings. This work should be completed by the beginning of next year.

At the same time, the condition of the 'Gents' toilet in Alma Street was also considered. This small building is many years old and houses only one obsolete urinal; also, having regard to its frequency of usuage, the Council decided that this should be demolished. This work is now in progress.

5. Council House Maintenance. The normal routine repairs have been carried out both by direct labour and contract during the year.

The external painting of a further 48 No. Council houses in Rosabelle Avenue and Britannia Crescent was carried out by contract.

Further improvements were carried out to the Aged Persons' flatlets at Britannia Court by the planting of flowers in the communal garden area and the purchase of picture prints for display in the corridors. Security 'chain bolts' were also fitted to the doorways of the Aged Persons' bungalows in Rosabelle Avenue.

The following requests were made by tenants during the year and approved by the Council:-

Item	No. of Requests
(1) To install immersion heater	1
(2) To install a sink unit	2
(3) To install new fire surround	3
(4) To install a telephone	1
(5) To erect a greenhouse	1
(6) To erect interwoven screen fence	2
(7) To remove cupboards	1
(8) To cut down trees	1

The number of requests has substantially increased this year compared with last year (3 requests). There would appear to be a greater desire on the part of the tenants to carry out minor improvements for their own comfort and at their own expense.

6. Housing. The rate of building dropped rapidly (from 50 dwellings completed in 1971 to 34 this year), a decrease of 32 per cent.

The number of dwellings under construction at the end of the year was 64.

Approval was given for 19 applications for Standard Grants and £5,280.00 was paid to the owners of 21 properties for work completed. It is interesting to note that whilst the number of applications submitted remained much the same as last year (17 in 1971), the number of properties in which work was completed almost trebled (8 in 1971).

7. New Buildings. 191 plans for new buildings and/or extensions were deposited for Building Regulation Approval and 116 for Town and Country Planning Approval. This was approximately the same number as last year. Those for the erection of new buildings were mainly for the infilling of single vacant plots, but also included two large applications, viz:-

(1) Erection of 29 No. houses on land north of Vanessa Drive and abutting Spring Lane.

(2) Erection of three blocks of four flats and garages and one pair of semi-detached houses at Vanessa Drive for Wivenhoe U.D.C.

8. Roads. The road sweeping service was reasonably maintained during the year, considering the labour difficulties which occasionally arose. Two new street orderly trucks were purchased, thus enabling the outlying parts of the district to be swept more frequently.

The surface water gullies were cleaned out and road gritting carried out during frosty weather.

The rose beds in the High Street and Station Road have been maintained throughout the year and new rose beds formed at the Ernest Road/Belle Vue Road junction and the 'island' at Stanley Road/Ernest Road junction. Grass verge cutting has been carried out during the summer months and approximately 100 new trees planted to replace othose either damaged or dead. 7 large elm trees which were situated on the north verge of De Vere Lane and which were affected with Dutch Elm Disease were cut down and destroyed.

The glazing of several bus shelters had to be replaced following damage by vandals. The bus shelter situated on the west side of Colchester Road and fronting the University entrance gate was extensively damaged by a commercial vehicle and had to be removed in the interests of public safety. A claim for the cost of replacement was made against the owner.

119 reinstatements were carried out on district roads during the year after 'excavations' had been made by the Gas, Water and G.P.O undertakers.

Alterations were carried out to the footways fronting 2 properties in Stanley Road, 3 in Ernest Road and 1 in Harvey Road to form vehicular accesses

The widening of the lay-by in Vine Parade by 2'0" was carried out by direct labour thus enabling parked cars to give greater clearance to the main highway and so reduce the traffic congestion which occurred at this point.

A further stage of the resurfacing programme was carried out. The public footpaths connecting Heath Road with Broome Grove Junior School was re-constructed, channelled, drained and surfaced with bituminous macadam. The footways in Heath Road, Lammas Way and Queens Road were surfaced with fine cold asphalt; all the work being carried out by direct labour. The areas covered were as follows:-

Public footpath, Heath Road	- 200	square yards
Footways - Heath Road, Lammas Way and Queens Road	- 2570	" "
Total	2770	square yards

In addition, the resurfacing of district roads with hot rolled asphalt was also carried out by contract. This year the work covered Tower Road, Rosabelle Avenue (part), Britannia Crescent, Queens Road (west), Clifton Terrace (part) and the Car Park - a total area of approximately 6,350 square metres.

Re-construction and surfacing works were also carried out by the Essex County Council to the carriageways and footways of The Avenue from Wivenhoe Cross to its junction with De Vere Lane.

The 'roundabout' at Station Road was reduced in size by the Essex County Council to facilitate the passage of buses and large lorries and also obviate damage being caused to the kerbs and rose beds by these vehicles.

The weekly inspections of the street lamps has been carried out during the year. Further improvements were carried out to the lighting system by the conversion of 44 No. lamps to 80 watt M.B.F.U. 24 of which were on district roads and 20 on County Roads.

9. Food. The following meat and tinned foods which were unfit for human consumption were surrended to the Council and destroyed.

Meat, meat product or other food	Cause
111 lbs. Beef	Decomposition
49 lbs. Pork	"
141 lbs. Liver	"
6½ lb. Tinned Beans	"Blown" tin
6½ lb. Tinned Plums	" "

In addition, one complaint was received regarding the condition of a frozen chicken purchased from a local store. After examination, this was found to be sound and fit for human consumption. No further action was taken in the matter.

10. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. The incidence of rodent infestation rose slightly compared with last year. This could possibly have been attributed to the disturbance caused by the construction of the Wivenhoe Sewer Scheme. The number of wasps' nests destroyed fell sharply from last year's total of 30 to 10 this year.

RODENT CONTROL

Properties inspected	43	Infested properties treated	39
Rat infestation found	39	Block control treatment	1
Mice infestation found	Nil	Notices served	Nil

Analysis of Inspections

Public Health Act	187	Food Premises	17
Sewers	62	Factories	33
Refuse	44	Pests Act	43
Street Lighting	250	Public Hall	25
Playing Fields	103	Car Park	37
Cemetery	56	Highways	82
Churchyard	31	Public Conveniences	46
Council House Maintenance	434		

Notices Served

Public Health Act	(Informal)	Served	16
		Abated	16
	(Formal)		Nil

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